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THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2013

Oh, deer

Deer makes way into downtown store
Page 3

Party place

New vision for Nickel Beach
Page 6

Bunking down

Buddies ready for fundraiser
Page 7

Amended bylaw

OK to hunt in Reeds Bay
Page 11

INPORT NEWS



SERVING PORT COLBORNE • WAINFLEET • SHERKSTON • LOWBANKS • ISSUE NO. 19 VOLUME 17

For news updated daily see www.inportnews.ca

■ **FOOD NETWORK:** Restaurant appears on TV

Smokin' Buddha a fan favourite

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — When Kevin Echlin stuck around on a warm March day in 2012 to help one of his servers get through a busy shift, he didn't know that one of his customers was quietly watching him, his staff and others seated at the Smokin' Buddha.

That customer, who was in the city to visit her grandfather at Northland Pointe, happened to be a television producer for a show on Food Network Canada. While at Northland Pointe, she asked

someone where a good place was to eat in the city.

They pointed her in the direction of Echlin's restaurant, which sits inside the old train station off of King St. and opened on Oct. 5, 2007.

His cooks pumping out food — a mix of Asian, Indian and Mexican cuisine — and he and his server making sure everyone was taken care of caught the attention of the woman.

When things quieted down, and after she was finished eating, she approached Echlin.

see TELEVISION | page 2



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Smokin' Buddha owner Kevin Echlin, front, and Jake Remond work together in the kitchen of the Port Colborne restaurant. Smokin' Buddha was featured on Food Network Canada's You Gotta Eat Here on Friday, May 17.

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SALES REPRESENTATIVE

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■ TELEVISION

Crew filmed from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Smokin' Buddha owner Kevin Echlin, works in the kitchen of his Port Colborne restaurant.

FROM PAGE 1

"She said, 'What would you think about being featured on the Food Network?' and asked if I had ever heard of the show *You Gotta Eat Here*. I said yes."

The next question from the woman, who turned out to be a producer with *You Gotta Eat Here*, was whether Echlin wanted to be on the show.

"I was beside myself ... I almost went numb. I was like, 'Wow! OK,'" he said.

The next day Echlin got a call and the ball started rolling on filming his restaurant for the show, hosted by John Catucci.

The show asked Echlin for a few things, like certain dishes to have ready.

"They film 78 shows across Canada and they didn't want to duplicate any dishes. They looked at our menu and chose our peanut curry, Korean beef noodles, lamb pops and mango salad."

When the show aired on May 17, Echlin said customers were seen eating those items and the Korean beef noodles will be featured as

one of the recipes on the *You Gotta Eat Here* website.

Echlin said once the dishes were decided, the *You Gotta Eat Here* crew came down on a Friday morning and, after filling out some paperwork and setting some parameters, set up to film.

"They said to open for business like it was a regular day. We had some people written down for reservations ... regular customers we had asked what their favourite dish was."

Those customers were eating the peanut curry, Korean beef noodles, lamb pops or mango salad as the show filmed.

"That Friday was an extremely busy day. They were filming and we were trying to operate, our cooks and servers were going hard."

Echlin said filming went well as the restaurant went through the busy service and the film crew chatted with about 40 people from the community who were inside *Smokin's Buddha* at the time.

Though a producer described *Smokin's Buddha* on her own, loyal customers had written to *You Gotta Eat Here* to rave about *Smokin's Buddha*.

"Before they came down, they did some research on us. They found four people had written in the last month and a half. Those people were featured

and asked what they liked about the show and our restaurant."

Echlin said those people writing in helped make the restaurant a fan favourite, which means it will air in repeats a few more times.

After filming on the Friday, the *You Gotta Eat Here* crew came back on the Saturday and it was a closed set, just them and Echlin.

"We did a full day of filming, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. They wanted me to go over the four dishes ... they asked very specific questions, like what goes into the dishes, how I learned to cook. It was a full interview with me."

The dishes were made for the crew, who ate them and then wrapped up.

"John (Catucci) and the crew were all super, super nice people. They had a really good time and ... wherever they went in town, (they said) everyone was really happy to meet them."

Echlin said it was an absolute honour to be on the show and Food Network.

"I absolutely never expected this when I opened ... I jumped. I couldn't get any higher. We've made a point to do the best job we can and put out quality food. To be featured on the Food Network, do the farmers markets, festivals and have people still discover us and love what we do..."



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ourview

Senate mess

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has had better political weeks than the last one.

Amidst a flurry of controversy, two of his highest profile caucus members, unelected senators Mike Duffy and Pamela Wallin, both resigned from the Conservative clutch over allegations of expense irregularities. Previously, they were two of Canada's most well-known, respected and decorated journalists.

Harper named Wallin to the Senate in January 2009. While she represents Saskatchewan, her residency has come under fire, and certainly her travel tab, which was \$30,000 for her jaunts between Saskatchewan and Ottawa.

But records show she also claimed \$321,027 for travel to other Canadian destinations, including Toronto, between Dec. 1, 2010, and Nov. 30, 2012.

The rules allow travel between Ottawa and the represented region, but travel to other destinations raises questions.

Duffy's problems arise from housing arrangements claims he expensed during the 2011 general election and about a personal cheque of \$90,000 he received from Harper's chief of staff, Nigel Wright.

With Liberal Cam Hurd and Tony Patrik Brazner under investigation, it's a sorry mess in Canada's upper chamber, the place for so-called second thought.

Which brings us to a fundamental argument. Why is it there anyway?

It has become purely a pork barrel reward for old political hacks and favourites; a way for those in power to pay back debts.

Sure it's Harper now, but no party, or individual, has a monopoly on cronyism.

Essentially it's a very expensive rubber stamp, designed more for tourists than effective legislative work.

Either it needs to be elected and effective and have legislative teeth that matters, or it should disappear into history. Canadians are tired of the gray train and controversy with no way of directly impacting who is in it.

In other words, no more Yogi Berra logic: "When you get to the fork in the road, take it."

I'VE BEEN THINKING

PASTOR JEEVA SAM
Morgan's Point and Forks Road
East United Churches

Annoying would be a mild word to describe what I have been experiencing over the past few days of driving from home in St. Catharines to

inconvenience. And it is not going away anytime soon.

However, something good is coming out of these slowdowns. Crews are working away to widen the 406 to four lanes all the way from the QEW to Welland.

So, we know that when all the work is completed, it will

It puts a dent in our plans. And it delays unexpectedly. We are not very frustrating.

The enemy of our souls makes us feel as though we were hemmed in and slowed down forever.

Subscribers to www.destinywordoftheday.com often ask Darren

in on all sides by his enemies...but he did not stay there forever.

He says that after a while God "brought me out into a broad place." (2 Samuel 22:20)

I can think of several times when the highway narrowed from two lanes to one in my life as well.

It was as though I could not make progress even if I wanted to, because someone else was dictating how fast I could go. I simply could not speed by as I would have had there been an extra lane.

Looking back, I now realize that there was a reason God wanted me to slow down, to get a more narrow focus on life for a season, to put up with the extra stress.

He had to prepare me for the next phase where more me to life in two or more lanes once again.

But before He could take me to a "broad place," He had to make me go through a "narrow space."

In one instance, He wanted me to learn what it means to depend more on Him for my provision. On another occasion, He needed me to make more time to draw closer to Him and feel His heartbeat. Another time, He forced me to work on strengthening our marriage.

Ditto for my friend Darren.

When David says in Psalm 23:2: "He makes me lie down in green pastures" it is, though it is suggesting that we would not lie down and rest voluntarily, so the Word Shepherd has to make us lie down.

Can you relate? Perhaps you too are impatiently enduring life in the lone lane right now...involuntarily!

Take heart! If what David, Darren and I endured is any indication, you may simply be experiencing the narrowing before the broadening.

For it is God's desire to take you to a "broad place."

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Wellfleet.

Highway 406, the road which takes me more than half way to Morgan's Point & Forks Road East United has been under construction lately.

"Left lane closed ahead." The electronic sign issues a 2 km warning.

Depending on what time of day one is driving, this could translate into a short slowdown or a lengthy delay. Trust me, I've experienced both. Et tu?

Either way it is an

make the trip a lot faster and more convenient.

But, for now, we have no choice but to put up with the delays.

The highway of life on which we travel often takes us through times when there is a narrowing of the lanes too, doesn't it?

The narrowing could be a restriction brought about by changes in our health, work, business, finances, relationship, family, church, faith... (please feel free to add to the list).

Canning and me

questions such as these:

"Why am I not advancing into my destiny as fast as I should?"

"Why have the promises of God not come to pass yet?"

"What am I doing to prolong the delay?"

Of course, there is no pat answer to any of these questions. Sometimes the Lord gives us revelation. Sometimes He is silent.

King David spent a lot of time in the "constriction" zone when he was hemmed

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IN BRIEF

PLAN FOR CULTURE

Angie Desmarais believes Port Colborne needs a culture plan.

The Ward 2 councillor plans to bring forward a motion at the May 27 council meeting requesting that staff look into the creation of a culture plan for the lakeside city.

CASH FOR ECONOMY

The city has some new dough to help roll out its economic development strategy.

Port Colborne received \$45,000 in upper-tier government funding to do further work to implement the strategy, which was adopted about four years ago.

It will focus on business retention and expansion in the

community, look at gaps in local employment opportunities and the available skill set, and work to better market the city's industrial and commercial real estate.

REVIVING ROSELAWN

Friends of Roselawn want to hit all the right notes in the lakeside city.

The community group, hard at work trying to preserve Roselawn Centre as an artistic hub, will be working with City of Port Colborne staff to create a blueprint for enhanced uses of the community centre and theatre.

This could potentially include hosting a number of musical series, such as blues and jazz, come fall, said Ward 4 Coun. Ron Bodner, also a Friends of

Roselawn representative.

He put forth a motion that was approved at Monday night's council meeting asking city staff to work with the groups looking to host such events in hopes of helping them move forward.

DANCH DELIVERS

Frank Danch to the rescue. The Ward 3 councillor offered up his truck and his labour to DelWitt Carter Public School to save them about \$300. The school had requested the use of a dozen or so city picnic tables for its upcoming fun fair, but the city charges for drop-off and pick-up. Rather than handing the school a bill, Danch volunteered his services at no charge.

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■ **FROG IN A SOCK**

Bar, music part of Nickel Beach vision

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Nickel Beach is poised to be beefed up with music and fitness programs, volleyball courts and even a bar.

Council approved an agreement between the municipality and Frog in a Sock Inc. for operation of the under-used beach.

Approval must now be sought from Vale, through which the city leases the beach property.

While Frog in a Sock — run by former Port Colborne resident Dallas Waines and partner Susan Li — intend to target visitors aged 18 to 29, they say the beach will still remain family-friendly and welcoming to people of all ages.

Ward 2 Coun. Angie Desmarais said the company has maintained solid

communication with the community, answering the questions and concerns of residents through social media since its proposal was first made to the city.

"We're hoping, as a community, you'll keep that communication going," she said to Waines, asking that he also pay close attention to any traffic issues in the area that may arise this summer.

In the past, beach operations have typically cost the city about \$28,000 a year. This season, the city will fork out about \$14,000 for assistive services including beach grading, grass cutting, garbage and recycling services, and sign replacement.

"There is a cost continuation for the city in an effort to support the beach as a destination in the city," said chief administrative officer Bob Heil.

see **BEACH** | page 12

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■ FUNDRAISER

4 Buds in a Bunkie for Port Cares

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Port Colborne regional councillor David Barrick, Port Colborne councillor Dave Elliott, Dave Hawkins, and restaurant owner Mike Sloat are about to get nice and cosy inside a bunkie in the Port Cares parking lot.

The four men will be in a tight space, but will suffer for a good cause as they raise funds, awareness and take in food donations for Port Cares and its Reach Out Centre Food Bank.

Port Cares development officer Pam Swick Janjac said the four men are taking part in the second 4 Buds in a Bunkie event to be held Wednesday, May 22 to Friday, May 24.

"On Tuesday we're having Golf With The Buds Day. The four will be playing with six to eight foursomes at Whiskey Run. We're going to have a three kilometre walk on Wednesday throughout the neighbourhood and raise awareness of what we are doing," said Swick Janjac.

The four men and Port Cares are also issuing a food drive challenge through the three day event. They are challenging Port Colborne elementary school and churches, and the general public to take part in a competition to see who can bring



Port Colborne regional Coun. David Barrick, Port Colborne Coun. Dave Elliott, Dave Hawkins, and restaurant owner Mike Sloat are about to get nice and cosy inside a bunkie in the Port Cares parking lot.

PRECIOUS LAPLANTE Supplied photo

in the most non-perishable food items.

A Puralator truck will be at Port Cares, 92 Charlotte St.,

throughout and Swick Janjac said the hope is to fill it up. As non-perishable items are brought in, they will be

weighed so there's any ongoing total of how much has been donated.

In the first year of the fund-

raising, when it was called Four Men in a Yurt, a total of \$20,000 in cash and non-perishable food items were

donated. Swick Janjac said a good portion of the money raised was through one company which was donating to a capital campaign taking place at the time.

Last year, when the event changed to 4 Buds in a Bunkie, there was a total of \$10,000 in cash and non-perishable food items donated.

All of the food is taken to Port Cares Reach Out Centre Food Bank, on Nickel St. and there is a need for the items.

"People usually associate hunger with cold ... we have food drives in the fall and around Christmas, but people have to eat all year. We have a number of working poor that depend on food banks."

The spring and summer months are when the shelves of food banks start to dwindle and Swick Janjac hopes the donations will come in during the event to stock the shelves to take the Food Bank through the summer and into the fall.

Some of the items needed right now include: large juices and juice boxes, fruit, Hamburger Helper, shampoo, bar soap, powdered laundry soap, canned beans, cereal and canned vegetables.

She said as the event goes on there will be entertainment Wednesday and Thursday, lunch and dinner barbecues, Seniors' Day on Wednesday, and a family night with Ontario Early Years on Thursday.

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■ **EDUCATION:** Lakeshore high school students captivate St. Therese audiences

Animal Farm rewrites inspirational to younger students

VICTORIA GRAY
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — It's never too early to learn about government, equality and social justice — or just how to write a book.

Especially when it's a hands-on, fun activity.

Last week, more than 20 Grade 10 English students from Lakeshore Catholic High School visited classes at St. Therese Catholic Elementary School on Killaly St. E. to read children's books they had written.

Lakeshore English teacher Anti Del Priore said the books were based on George Orwell's 1945 novel *Animal Farm*.

"It promotes cross-curric-

ular literacy," she said. "And it shows (my students) that the book they created has an impact on the younger kids. I think they take more pride in it if they know how excited the kids get."

Students spent about two weeks working on the children's books after reading and talking about the book.

Some of the students, including Morgan Hayde, found condensing the information difficult, but well worth it.

"We dissected the book so much in English class so to make that a children's book was kind of hard because you want to get all the information in there, but you kind of have to simplify it, so they understand," Hayde said.

The younger students really enjoyed the visit because it gave them an opportunity to have a fun, tactile learning experience.

Early learning kindergarten teacher Lidia Di Lorenzo said it's nice for her students to see older students writing.

"I think it's almost like that role-model situation where they are seeing that, yes, they are still students, but they do write and if I keep practising I can write like they do," she said.

"Because it's

not a printed book, they can see that they, too, can create and become authors and illustrators."

Hayde really liked how

interested and animated some of the children were when she read to them.

Some of the kids are really excited about it and I don't

remember being like that as a kid. I was kind of shy, so it's cool to see that," she said.

victoria.gray@sunmedia.ca



ABOVE: Lakeshore Catholic Secondary School students including Morgan Hayde, right, visit St. Therese Catholic Elementary School and read to kindergarten students including Kiersten Linblad, middle, and Sarah Boda, books they wrote based on George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. BELOW: Scott Powers reads to Soren Geady, middle, and Alissa Gardonyi.



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photos

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■ BYLAWS

Hunting still OK in Reeb's Bay

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff



The hunters that discharge their guns in the that area are not pointing their guns at people or property, they are pointing out into the lake. I don't feel that's a safety concern."

John Boerma

area are not pointing their guns at people or property, they are pointing out into the lake. I don't feel that's a safety concern.

Boerma said if someone was to point a firearm at another person, that's something that falls under the Criminal Code of Canada. "I'd call the police if someone pointed a firearm at me." No hunters or residents opposed to hunting along the shoreline were in council chambers when Boerma presented his report. The report recommended

council approve: use of current setbacks from buildings of 152.4 metres; prohibition of discharge of firearms in hamlets and properties zoned institutional, such as schools; permits use of firearms for historical re-enactments, such as at Marshville Festival; use of any class of firearms as permitted by provincial and federal hunting regulations when used for hunting or trapping; permits use of shotguns for practice purposes; provides for farmers or their authorized agent(s) to protect their farming property; provides an exemption for Niagara Arms Living History Club; and provides an exemption for peace officers, police, animal control officers, Canadian Armed Forces, and persons licensed by the Ministry of Natural Resources for pest removal.

Both Aids, Ted Hesseks and Richard Dykstra questioned Boermas over the hamlet designation in the amended bylaw, which saw some of the previous bylaw language tightened up.

Hesseks felt some of the hamlets were big enough and not

fully-developed to allow for the setback from buildings part of the bylaw to apply instead.

"Why not just use the distance?" he asked.

Township planner Grant Munday answered and said there has to be some sort of measuring line and said hamlets are intended to be residential and commercial areas, not meant for hunting.

"There could be a conflict," he said.

Boerma said hunting near a hamlet wouldn't be too safe.

"It's said a .22(-calibre) travels for two kilometres. I don't think we'd be able to accommodate hunting safely in a hamlet," Boerma said.

Dykstra felt the 152.4-metre setback from buildings would cover off the hamlets.

"I don't think we need to put hamlet in the bylaw ... it's redundant."

The two councillors asked for an amendment to the bylaw to remove hamlets, which was passed. The amended bylaw was passed by council.

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Plan could make Nickel Beach profitable

FROM PAGE 6

The agreement negotiated with the city would see Frog in a Sock providing the city a

10% net return at the end of the season, said community services manager Harry Hakim.

Ward 1 Coun. Dave Elliott questioned why the beach

tenants were being asked to pay 10% net, while other businesses renting city property have agreed to 10% gross.

"There's a huge difference

in the way it functions," said Heil, adding the businesses charged a gross percentage are profit-oriented.

The beach is currently

operating at a loss, he said, and bringing the operators on board, regardless of whether they turn a profit, will help to minimize the city's costs.

Heil admitted that Frog in a Sock "has its work cut out for it," but if it does manage to turn a large profit, the contract can be reviewed.



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■ GOLF CARTS

Live, live, Birdie

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Their signs made clear the message they were trying to send.

"Say 'No' to inappropriate development," one read. "Stop Empire Rd. rezoning," another declared in big bold letters. They were impossible to miss while making your way into Port Colborne city hall last week.

The public truck notice — and so did city council.

Councillors ultimately decided to side with Sheraton residents who filled council chambers to the brim, and defeated a proposed zoning bylaw amendment that would have allowed Birdie Golf Carts to move its repair and retail shop to the northwest corner of Sheraton and Empire Rds. from its current Port Erie location.

Birdie's zoning bylaw and has been asked to relocate.

Residents have raised concerns with the business moving to the small hamlet of Sheraton, citing worries of increased noise and truck traffic, the impact to the area's highly-vulnerable aquifer and potential adverse effects on neighbouring farming operations.

Monday's discussion began with lawyer John Crossingham speaking on behalf of many of the residents in opposition of the development.

He explained that according to the city's Official Plan, development within the hamlets is intended to provide local benefit and service to the immediate community.

"The overarching question I think you must wrestle with, as an elected representative, is what is the fit of golf carts in Sheraton? How is this supportive of Sheraton? How does this build Sheraton as a stronger, better community?" he asked.

"I find no direction in your planning documents that tell you this development should be here," Crossingham said, adding there is a "great deal" of community opposition saying it should not.

In response, Butch Gordon of Birdie Golf Carts said the development does in fact fit in the hamlet, as nearby Sheraton Shores is "probably the single largest gathering of golf carts in Ontario."

It's not fair, he said, to separate the resort community from the hamlet.

"The proximity of Sheraton Shores is a big deal for us," he said of the resort where carts are commonly used by vacationers.

"We're trying to do this properly. We're trying to fit in. It does fit, it does work down there."

Golf carts are used not only on the greens these days, Gordon said, but also at cottages, farms, horse stables and for events such as Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival.

He had difficulty understanding the opposition when no objections were provided from any of the professional agencies asked to review the proposed zoning bylaw amendment.

"I don't know how many professional people you want to look at this and come up with this type of green light," Gordon said, showing obvious signs of frustration.

"This is not an easy decision to make," said Ward 4 Coun. Ron Bodner, adding it's one council has struggled with.

"(Gordon) did the right thing coming to council. Where we differ is use of the land."

Bodner believes the business will not be the "best use of the land," which is better suited for "something that would better service the community."

Asked if he had considered other locations, Gordon said he has looked but not found anything suitable closer to Sheraton Shores.

There are several people in the immediate area running golf cart businesses out of their homes "chipping at our beels," he said, adding Birdie's is trying to compete by going through the proper motions.

Addressing concerns for the local aquifer, Gordon said he had no plans to drill a well on the property, but use a cistern instead, and had planned to recapture water for washing golf carts.

The public has demonstrated the desire to preserve the "unique quality of the hamlet," said Ward 4 Coun. Barbara Butters.

"They don't see it as fitting and I don't either."

She said she sees the benefits the development will have for the applicants, but not for the hamlet.

"It will probably benefit Sheraton Shores (visitors) to some degree, but they are part-time residents and as far as I'm concerned it's the full-time residents that we're here to look after."



Protesters stand outside Port Colborne city hall in opposition of a proposed zoning bylaw amendment that would allow Birdie Golf Carts to develop in Sheraton.

MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

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